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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Soviet Technical Mission in Tsinan

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25X1

1. The members of the Soviet technical mission in Tsinan are fairly young, averaging about thirty years of age. Most of them wear mustaches in order to appear older. They give little evidence of high technical qualifications, and display ignorance when questioned in relation to particular technical problems. None of them speaks Chinese; all of their conversations with Chinese are carried on through interpreters. Such conversations are rare, for the Russians appear only at occasional official functions and at the meetings of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association.*
2. It is reported in Tsinan that a total of 3,000 Soviet technical advisers have passed through Peiping to various cities in China. The number is thought to be extremely large, and has given rise to speculation. The Chinese wonder that the USSR should have such an abundance of trained engineers as to be able to spare 3,000 of them in the space of a few months.
3. It is reported that the Soviet advisers receive about 200 grain units per month, and that they live as the Chinese do.** However, the Russians have been buying clothing and other items which Chinese who receive this same salary cannot afford. The Chinese in Tsinan believe, despite the stress laid on the equal treatment of Soviets and Chinese, that the Soviets receive a subsidy from the USSR which brings their monthly income to about 1,000 units of grain per person.

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Comment. At current prices, the grain unit is equivalent to one Hong Kong dollar.

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